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REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1951SUBJECT Political - Government changes
Biographic

DATE DIST. /0 Aug 1951

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspapersWHERE
PUBLISHED Zurich; Bratislava

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE
PUBLISHED 6, 7 Jun 1951SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE German; Slovak

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TWO SLOVAK OFFICIALS REPLACED;
BIOGRAPHIES OF NEW APPOINTEES GIVEN

REPORT OFFICIALS DISCHARGED -- Zurich, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 6 Jun 51

According to an official communique of the Czechoslovak Cabinet in Prague, made public on 5 June 1951, the commissioner in charge of the Slovak Office for Church Affairs, Ladislav Holdos, was discharged from his post and expelled from the Communist Party. Holdos has been replaced by Stefan Gazik, deputy chairman of the Slovak National Council.

The same communique announced the resignation of the Slovak Commissioner for Finance, Dr J. Pull, for "reasons of health." Dr Pull will remain as deputy chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Jozef Hojc, a director of the National Insurance Corporation in Bratislava, was named to succeed him as Commissioner for Finance.

NAME NEW SLOVAK COMMISSIONERS -- Bratislava, Praca, 7 Jun 51

In its meeting of 5 June the government appointed two new commissioners. Jozef Hojc, a director of the National Insurance Corporation, was named Slovak Commissioner for Finance, while Stefan Gazik, deputy chairman of the Slovak National Council and general secretary of the Central Action Committee of the Slovak National Front, was named commissioner in charge of the Slovak Office for Church Affairs. A short biography of each follows.

Jozef Hojc

Jozef Hojc, the new Slovak Commissioner for Finance, was born on 15 March 1906 in Prievidza, where his parents worked in the Carpathia factory. He graduated from secondary school in Prievidza, but did not have enough money to go to college. After leaving school he was unemployed for a year and a half, after which he went to work at the former Pension Institute in Bratislava.

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His study of Marxism-Leninism led him to join the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in May 1926, in Prievidza. Beginning in November 1938 he operated illegally in Bratislava, where he organized a group and was in contact with Otto Krajniak, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia, and Professor Alexander Markus, and, until he was arrested on 20 March 1943, with the central secretary of the Communist Party of Slovakia, Deputy Stefan Bastovansky. After his arrest he was temporarily released, since his trial was not to be until December 1944. He joined the Slovak national uprising as soon as it broke out, and in the mountains published the periodicals Partizan and Hlas Ludu.

For his activity he was decorated with the Order of the Slovak National Uprising, 2d Class.

He was then chairman of a local Communist Party organization in the National Insurance Corporation in Bratislava, and later became a member of the Kraj Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia for Bratislava. At the Ninth Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia he was elected to the Supervisory Commission of the party, and at the Ninth Congress of the Communist Party of Slovakia he was elected chairman of the Central Supervisory Commission of the Communist Party of Slovakia.

During the events of February 1948 he became chairman of the Kraj Action Committee of the National Front in Bratislava and was decorated with the Order of the February Victory, 2d Class.

Stefan Gazik

Stefan Gazik was born on 23 August 1912 in Gervenik Obec, Hlohovec Okres. He is one of ten children of agricultural workers. He studied machine fitting in Sered, after which he worked for the firm of Coburg and Tyrnavia, in Trnava. In 1932 he entered military service, and from 1935 to 1939 he was a guard of prisoners at the kraj court in Prague, and later in Leopoldov and Bratislava. He worked illegally while a prison guard, helping political prisoners maintain contact with their co-workers outside. He was arrested in 1942 and was not released until October 1943. After his release he continued his illegal work until the Slovak national uprising, in which he worked as a liaison agent between the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia in Banska Bystrica and Stefan Bastovansky, who was in Bratislava. In this capacity he crossed the front between Banska Bystrica and Bratislava ten times. When the uprising was partially suppressed the Central Committee entrusted him with organizing the liberation of political prisoners in Bratislava, particularly Comrades Siroky and Duris. In February 1945 he again crossed the front and went to Kosice, where he began work for the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia, where he is working today. In 1948 he became a deputy of the Slovak National Council, and in July 1950 deputy chairman of the Slovak National Council.

For his illegal work he was decorated with the Order of the Slovak National Uprising, 1st Class, and for his work after the liberation, and particularly during the events of February 1948, he received the Order of the February Victory, 1st Class.

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